GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6784
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
LEVY OF NEW TOURIST TAX IN NEPAL
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has begun collecting a new tourist tax from diplomats, foreign Government employees and foreigners living in the kingdom even though they are exempted from the levy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Indian staffers posted in Nepal for the last three years, employees of foreign government organisations like Indian Airlines or the State Bank of India and all who hold a non-Nepalese passport are required to pay the levy meant only for tourists;

(d) if so, whether any protest has been lodged by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Nepalese Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes. His Majesty`s Government of Nepal has, with effect from January 14, 2005, started levying a tourism service tax fee @ Nepali Rupees 565.00. The fee is levied on all non-Nepalese persons departing from Kathmandu airport, including diplomats, foreign government employees and foreigners living in Nepal. The Indian Embassy staff and the employees of government organizations like Indian Airlines and State Bank of India are also required to pay this fee.

(d) & (e) Government of India has taken up this matter with His Majesty`s Government of Nepal and sought exemption from this tax for the Embassy officials and their family members. Response of His Majesty`s Government of Nepal is awaited.